



MEDIA RELEASE

Arrest for Robbery & Kidnapping

SANTA BARBARA, CA – April 26, 2012

CORRECTION: The identity of the first responding officer is John Nelson, not Bruno Peterson.

On April 23, 2012 at 10:59 p.m., officers from the Santa Barbara Police Department responded to a call of a robbery with a gun that had just occurred near 100 W. Ortega Street. The reporting party was one of the victims who stated that the suspect was still inside a white Chrysler vehicle parked on the street with another victim. He further stated that the suspect had a gun concealed under his shirt.

Within two minutes Officer Bruno Peterson arrived on scene and located the vehicle parked along the north curb of the 200 block of W. Ortega Street. The suspect, later identified as Joshua Vincent Moreno, age 24, was standing outside of the open driver's side door, leaning over the other victim who was seated in the driver's seat. Because Moreno reportedly had a gun, Officer Peterson armed himself with his patrol rifle prior to approaching. As Officer Peterson approached, Moreno turned, looked at Officer Peterson, and then ran away eastbound and then south into the parking lot of the apartments at 633 De La Vina Street. Moreno ran into unit E and slammed the apartment door shut. Officer Peterson and the other responding officers formed perimeters around the complex and apartment E, and then called out the occupants of apartment E at gunpoint. Moreno, along with two women, exited the apartment and Moreno was taken into custody. After Moreno was captured three additional people were contacted inside the apartment. While inside the apartment Moreno had changed his clothing, however the clothes he was wearing during the commission of the crime, as well as property belonging to the victims, was found inside.

Investigation indicates that at the time of the incident the two victims, who are friends, were in a car and were parking along the north curb of Ortega Street when they were contacted by Moreno. The driver is an 18-year old male and is the owner of the vehicle. His passenger is a 19-year old male who was seated in the front passenger seat. Upon parking Moreno approached the driver's door and stood against it, preventing the driver from exiting. Moreno told the victims that he had a gun and then ran around the rear of the car and opened the rear passenger side door. Moreno entered the vehicle, sitting on the rear seat. He demanded that the victims give him everything in their pockets, repeatedly stating that he had a gun and threatening to shoot the victims. The victims complied with Moreno's demand; however Moreno accused the victims of lying to him and of not giving him all that they had. Moreno then exited the vehicle and opened the front passenger door, pulling the victim that was seated there out of the car.

That victim had a folding pocket knife which fell to the ground when Moreno pulled him out of the car. The pocket knife was among the items the victim removed from his pockets per Moreno's demand. Moreno saw this, picked up the knife, and exposed the blade. Moreno grabbed that victim around the neck in a headlock with one arm and held the knife to the victim's abdomen. Moreno forced that victim at knifepoint to walk several feet down the sidewalk. Afraid for his life, the victim broke free of Moreno's hold, ran to his residence, and called police.

After that victim escaped, Moreno entered the vehicle a second time, sitting in the front passenger seat. He demanded that the remaining victim, the driver, drive away to a location where Moreno could buy drugs. That victim refused to drive away. Moreno then exited the car and walked around to the driver's side door, knife in hand. As Moreno stood over the victim Officer Peterson arrived. When realizing the police were there, Moreno dropped the knife and ran to 633 De La Vina Street unit E, where his cousin resides.

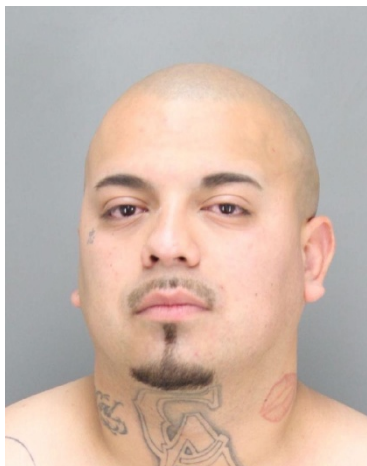
The victims' stolen property consisting of wallets, cell phones, keys, and small quantities of cash were recovered from the apartment. A gun was not found. Moreno is an admitted gang member, although this incident does not appear to have been done for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

Moreno was booked at Santa Barbara County Jail for kidnapping, robbery, brandishing a deadly weapon, and resisting or delaying an officer with a bail amount of \$100,000.00.

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